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## ➤BOOK :NOTICES.◀

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### BIBLE HISTORY.\*

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What teacher has not groaned in spirit because of the lack of a proper textbook in Bible history? Smith's Old Testament and New Testament Histories have been the standards for many years; but how uninviting they are; how deficient in vividness, in arrangement, in the presentation of the results of recent investigations!

Professor Blaikie's work has been in the market some years; but for some reason has not gained the recognition which it deserves. It is a small work, but the enlargement which it needs can well be performed by the teacher and student. It furnishes an admirable outline for a thorough and comprehensive course of Bible history. The division of the material into sections, with the topic of each section indicated in heavy type, is to be commended. Perhaps the value of the book cannot better be shown than by quoting from the author's preface its characteristics: "(1) It follows the stream of biblical narrative, arranging and classifying the leading facts, so as to aid the eye and the memory in grasping the whole. (2) It keeps in view, throughout, the great spiritual purpose of revelation, and shows its gradual development. (3) For illustrating the narrative it takes advantage of the mass of biblical illustration of which recent years have been so prolific, in researches, monuments, travels, and expeditions in Bible lands. (4) It notices briefly the chief countries, towns, and other scenes of Bible history as they occur. (5) It glances at the parallel history and progress of the leading nations of the world,—showing what was going on elsewhere while the history of the Bible was being enacted. (6) It traces the progress of religious knowledge by which it was made known, and the state of social and spiritual life at different periods, partly in other nations, but especially among the Israelites. (7) It fills up the interval between the Old Testament and the New, so as to throw light on the great changes that had occurred between the time of Malachi and the appearance of our Lord."

This history is not a perfect one. There are several points which would improve it, e. g., the insertion of much additional matter in the form of foot-notes; but it may be said that, for the average Bible class, whether in Sunday-school or Divinity school, it is the handiest and most satisfactory book to be had.

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### LECTURES ON ECCLESIASTES.†

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No book more difficult to handle than Ecclesiastes is to be found in the Old Testament. The lectures before us were delivered on Saturday afternoons, begin-

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\* A MANUAL OF BIBLE HISTORY in connection with the general history of the World. By the Rev. Wm. G. Blaikie, D. D., LL. D. New Edition, Revised and Enlarged. London and New York: *T. Nelson & Sons*. 1882. 8vo, pp. 504. Price, \$1.75.

† LECTURES ON ECCLESIASTES, delivered in Westminster Abbey by the Very Rev. George Granville Bradley, D. D., Dean of Westminster. Oxford: *Clarendon Press*. New York: *Macmillan & Co*. 1885. 8vo. Pp. 133. Price, \$1.10.